

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 19 – 23, amend claims 1 – 5, 7, 8 and 16, and add new claims 24 – 28, in the manner indicated on the following listing of all the claims in the present application after this Amendment.

1. (currently amended) A method of controlling sound emitted by a device other than a piece of audio-video equipment, comprising:
- operating a sound mute function key of a remote control to cause the remote control to emit a signal to which a particular piece of audio-video equipment is adapted to respond by muting its sound output, and
- causing the device other than a piece of audio-video equipment to receive the mute signal from the remote control and responsively mute its emission of sound.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said particular piece of audio-video equipment is also caused to receive the mute signal from the remote control to mute its sound simultaneously with the sound of the device sound other than a piece of audio-video equipment being muted.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, additionally comprises operating function keys of said remote control to cause the remote control to emit signals to which the particular piece of audio-video equipment is adapted to respond by increasing or decreasing a level of its sound output, and causing the device other than a piece of audio-video equipment to receive the sound increase or sound decrease signals from the remote control to respectively increase or decrease the level of the ~~device~~ sound output of the device other than a piece of audio-video equipment in response.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said particular piece of audio-video equipment is also caused to receive the sound increasing or sound decreasing signal from the remote control to respectively increase or decrease the level of

its sound simultaneously with the level of the ~~device~~ sound output of the device other than a piece of audio-video equipment being increased or decreased.

5. (currently amended) The method of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the device other than a piece of audio-video equipment includes a toy.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the toy is either a stuffed animal or a doll.

7. (currently amended) The method of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the device other than a piece of audio-video equipment includes a home appliance.

8. (currently amended) A device other than audio-video equipment, comprising:

a receiver of wireless control signals ~~of the type~~ having protocols of signals emitted by a plurality of remote controls that individually emit their control signals with a different one of a plurality of distinct signal protocols to specify individual functions to be performed by different ~~types~~ pieces of audio-video equipment that individually respond to one of the plurality of protocols,

a decoder connected to the receiver to identify one of the plurality of signal protocols for a received control signal from a specific remote control and decode therefrom the function represented thereby, and

performing the decoded function within the device.

9. (original) The device of claim 8, additionally comprising a sound generator within the device, and wherein the function decoded by the decoder includes a sound control function that is performed with the sound generator.

10. (original) The device of claim 9, wherein the decoded sound control function includes muting the sound generator.

11. (original) The device of claim 9, wherein the decoded sound control function includes adjusting a volume of sound emitted by the sound generator.

12. (original) The device of any one of claims 8-11, wherein said device includes a toy.

13. (original) The device of claim 12, wherein the toy is either a stuffed animal or a doll.

14. (original) The device of any one of claims 8-11, wherein said device includes a home appliance.

15. (original) The device of claim 8, wherein the wireless control signals include infra-red radiation pulses.

16. (currently amended) A toy, comprising:
a sound generator,
a receiver of wireless control signals ~~of the type~~ having protocols of signals emitted by a plurality of remote controls that individually emit their control signals with a different one of a plurality of distinct protocols to specify individual functions to be performed by different ~~types~~ pieces of audio-video equipment that individually respond to one of the plurality of protocols, wherein the individual functions includes a function of muting a sound output of the corresponding piece of audio-video equipment, and
a decoder connected to the receiver to identify one of the plurality of signal protocols of a received control signal from a specific remote control, to decode therefrom the muting function represented thereby and to mute the toy sound generator in response.

17. (original) The toy of claim 16, wherein the individual functions additionally includes adjusting a level of sound from the corresponding piece of audio-video equipment, and the decoder additionally decodes the volume adjusting function

represented thereby, and the sound generator is adjusted to vary a volume of sound emitted by the sound generator.

18. (original) The toy of either of claims 16 or 17, wherein the toy is either a stuffed animal or a doll.

19 - 23. (canceled)

24. (new) Apparatus other than audio-video equipment, comprising:
a photo-detector adapted to receive infra-red radiation and generate an output signal,

a memory storing a library of a set of one or more infra-red signal patterns emitted by each of a plurality of remote controls of audio-video equipment,

a signal decoder connected to receive the photo-detector output and identify a match between a pattern of the output signal and one of the stored library of signal patterns for generating a control signal corresponding to the specific audio-video function of the matched library signal, and

a component of said apparatus other than audio-video equipment connected to receive the control signal and perform a resulting designated function.

25. (New) Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the apparatus component includes a sound source and the designated function controls the sound source.

26. (New) Apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the specific audio-video function of the matched library signal includes muting the sound of audio-video equipment and the designated function includes muting the sound source of said apparatus other than audio-video equipment.

27. (New) Apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the specific audio-video function of the matched library signal includes raising or lowering the sound level of

audio-video equipment and the designated function includes raising or lowering the level of the sound source of said apparatus other than audio-video equipment.

28. (New) Apparatus according to any one of claims 24 – 27, wherein said apparatus other than audio-video equipment is installed within a toy.